GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6614
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
PASSPORTS TO FISHERMEN
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued directions that fishermen going into the sea should mandatorily have Indian passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has estimated the number of fishermen in coastal States who venture into the sea for fishing ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to set up special Passport Seva Kendra in all coastal States so that passports are issued to these fishermen without difficulty?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The Government has not issued any directions for mandatory issuance of passports to fishermen going into the sea.

(c) & (d) The information regarding the number of fishermen who venture into the sea is not available. However, Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras have jurisdiction over all the coastal areas for the purpose of rendering passport services, and will be happy to process the applications of fishermen similar to that of other applicants.